



*Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Embassy, Wellington*

March 27, 2006

PACIFIC PROTECTOR 2006

The United States is pleased to participate with military and law enforcement assets in Pacific Protector 2006 in April.

We thank Australia for hosting this important exercise in support of the Proliferation Security Initiative, which President Bush announced in May 2003.

We welcome New Zealand's participation in this global, multinational initiative.

Participation by U.S. forces in a multilateral exercise also attended by New Zealand does not represent a change in U.S. Government policies regarding New Zealand's nuclear legislation.

The U.S. Government maintains flexible policies that are adjustable to the demands of our national security interests.